

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01556 271345Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1556

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MZ, RH, UK, US
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: LORD CARVER'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) STATE 289263; (B) MAPUTO 1095; (C) USUN 3341

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT MACHEL INVITES LORD CARVER AND PARTY TO MAPUTO FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS OF TALKS BEGINNING JANUARY 6. PRESIDENTIAL AIDES SERGIO VIEIRA AND FERNANDO HONWANA VIEW FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S INVITATION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT TO COME TO LONDON FOR TALKS IN MID-JANUARY AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENTIAL AIDE SERGIO VIEIRA SUMMONED UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND ME TO PALACE LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 26. PRESIDENTIAL AIDE FERNANO HONWANA PARTICIPATED IN MEETING.

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3. VIEIRA SAID HE WAS ACTING AT BEHEST OF PRESIDENT MACHEL. PURPOSE WAS TWOFOLD: TO FIND OUT FROM US WHERE WE STOOD WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND TO INVITE LORD CARVER TO MAPUTO FOR TALKS ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 6.

4. IN RESPONSE TO VIEIRA'S QUERY ABOUT STATUS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, MY UK COLLEAGUE REPORTED THAT HE HAD

DELIVERED A LETTER FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TO MUGABE ON DECEMBER 23. THE LETTER, HE SAID, REAFFIRMED UK COMMITMENT TO THE PLAN AND INVITED MUGABE AND NKOMO TO LONDON IN MID-JANUARY FOR SERIOUS TALKS ON THE PLAN. VIEIRA AND HONWANA BOTH RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THIS INFORMATION. I ADDED THAT THE USG REMAINED FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PLAN AND WAS DETERMINED TO PRESS FORWARD WITH IT.

5. TURNING TO SECOND POINT, VIEIRA SAID THAT VISIT OF LORD CARVER TO MAPUTO HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS IN BIEIRA IN MID-DECEMBER. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED AT BIEIRA THAT A VISIT TO MAPUTO BY LORD CARVER WOULD BE HELPFUL. VIEIRA MADE CLEAR THAT THESE TALKS WOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE THIS WAS NOT THE ROLE OF MOZAMBIQUE. HE HOPED CARVER WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCLOSE AND DISCUSS DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS ENVISAGED FOR THE TRANSITION. VIEIRA NOTED THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAD MUCH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE FROM ITS OWN RECENT TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE TO SHARE WITH US. HE SAID THAT MOZAMBICANS WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING UK AND US VIEWS ON THOSE SPECIFIC "AREAS OF CONCERN" THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAD RAISED WITH US EARLIER (SEE REFTELS B AND C).

6. VIEIRA SAID MACHEL WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH LORD CARVER AND PARTY ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 6. HE SAID THAT LORD CARVER
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SHOULD PLAN TO STAY UP TO THREE DAYS TO ENSURE THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH DISCUSSION. HE SUGGESTED THAT TALKS COMMENCE ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 6, BUT HE INDICATED THAT MOZAMBIQUE WAS FLEXIBLE IN CASE THESE DATES WERE NOT CONVENIENT. HE SAID THAT MOZAMBIQUE EXPECTS THE UK TO EXTEND INVITATION TO PREM CHAND.

7. COMMENT. VIEIRA SEEMED TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO IMPRESS UPON US THAT THE LORD CARVER VISIT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED AT THE FRONT LINE MEETING IN BIEIRA. IT CONCEIVABLE THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS SEE MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY FOR MACHEL TO SHARE HIS VIEWS WITH CARVER, BUT ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MACHEL TO RAISE SOME POINTS OF COMMON INTEREST TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND PERHAPS PATRIOTIC FRONT AS WELL. THUS, THE JANUARY TALKS COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND STRICTLY BILATERAL DISCUSSION.

8. MUGABE MAY BE IN MAPUTO DURING THE TALKS. IF SO, QUESTION ARISES WHETHER LORD CARVER SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE MUGABE AND IF SO WHAT SHOULD BE PURPOSE OF A MEETING. PLANNING FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCE IS RECOMMENDED. I THINK MUGABE WOULD BE MIFFED IF HE WERE IN MAPUTO DURING

THE TALKS AND LORD CARVER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SEE HIM.
DEPREE

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